Unregistered Medical Practitioners in the country

*372. SHRI BHUPINDER SINGH MANN: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any survey as to the number of unregistered medical practioners/quacks providing medical services in the country and the risk to the life of millions of people posed by them;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the provisions of law against such malpractices and action taken against such persons?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI): (a) No such survey has been conducted by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Penal provisions already exist in the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956 as well as in the Indian Medicine Central Council Act, 1970 and the Homoeopathy Central Council Act, 1973 to the effect that no person other than a medical practitioner enrolled on the State Medical Register shall practice medicine in any State and any person contravening this provision shall be punishable with imprisonment for a term which may extend to one year or with fine which may extend to one thousand rupees, or with both. The Government of India had advised the State Governments/ U.Ts to take action against unqualified practitioners. State Governments of Karnataka, Haryana, Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Gujarat and Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi have reported that they have initiated action against such unqualified practitioners.

Timing publicised by Doordarshan for telecast of opening ceremony of Atlanta Olympics

*373. SHRI S.M. KRISHNA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that telecasting time of the opening ceremony of Centennial Olympics at Atlanta was wrongly publicised by the Doordarshan i.e., instead of 5.30 a.m. it was indicated 6.30 p.m.;

(b) whether this deprived the people to witness the opening ceremony; and

(c) whether Government have enquired into the matter as to how the wrong timings were given by the Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Compensation to local bodies for abolition of Octroi

*374. DR. D. MASTHAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering giving adequate compensation to local bodies in lieu of abolition of octroi; and

(b) if so, by when it is proposed to be given?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) The Government of India is neither providing, nor there is any proposal before its consideration for providing compensation to local bodies in the States in lieu of abolition of Octroi.

The position in respect of the Union Territories is as follows:—

A. Union Territories without Legislature:

(a) *Chandigarh and Dadra & Nagar Haveli:*—

No terminal tax was levied in these Union Territories and the position continues to be same.

(b) *Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshadweep:*—

They have been allowed to continue levy of terminal tax in view of their unique geographical location.

(c) *Daman & diu:*—

The levy of terminal tax has been abolished and the UT Administration is being adequately compensated.